

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16 and 19-24 have been amended; and claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17 and 43-46 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15-16 and 18-42 remain in this application and are again presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following comments.

Initially, applicant wishes to extend his appreciation for the time and courtesy extended by Examiner Brockett during the telephone interview conducted on October 7, 2004. The amendments made herein and the comments which follow are intended to reflect the agreement reached between the Examiner and applicants' undersigned counsel with respect to the features distinguishing the present invention over the cited art.

In the Official Action, claims 43 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 5,820,462 to Yokoi et al. ("Yokoi"). In addition, claims 45-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Yokoi. As noted above, claims 43-46 have been cancelled, rendering the rejections of these claims moot.

Claims 25-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokoi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,742,278 to Chen. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed during the aforementioned telephone interview, Chen is directed to a force feedback joystick having motors 14 and 16 which oppose manual movement of the joystick. Because motors 14 and 16 oppose movement of the joystick, they cannot be inside of the joystick handle, but rather must be and are external to the joystick so that they can act thereon. In

contrast, Yokoi is directed to an operating device for a game machine having a fixed housing in which the only moving parts are push buttons. Applicant therefore does not see how the teachings of Chen can be combined with Yokoi since the input elements of these devices operate in totally different ways.

Moreover, even if the teachings of Chen could somehow be combined with the device of Yokoi, the resultant device would still not teach or suggest the subject matter of the claims herein. That is, Chen may suggest to one skilled in the art to add external motors to the device of Yokoi in order to resist movement of the input elements thereof. However, nothing in Chen would suggest the placement of vibration elements inside of the handle grips of Yokoi.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that claims 25-42 distinguish over both Yokoi and Chen and the combination which the Examiner contends can be made therefrom. Accordingly, applicant submits that claims 25-42 are in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15-16 and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokoi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,897,437 to Nishiumi et al. ("Nishiumi"). In addition, claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokoi in view of Nishiumi, and further in view of Chen. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant notes that each of claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16 and 19-24 have been amended to include the requirement for a vibration-imparting unit arranged in at least one of the first and second grips. As neither Yokoi, Nishiumi or Chen teaches or suggests this feature, applicant submits that each of these claims patentably distinguishes over these references such as to warrant their immediate allowance, as well as the allowance of

the claims dependent therefrom.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Robert B. Cohen

Registration No.: 32,768
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorney for Applicant

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